

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. *(currently amended)* A slidingly engageable fastening device operable upon application of a relative shearing force, comprising:
 - a first portion that includes:
 - a first base having a first basal surface; and
 - a plurality of first undercut segments spaced from said first basal surface; and
 - a second portion for slidingly engaging with said first portion upon application of a relative shearing force with respect to said first and second portions, said second portion including:
 - a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal surface;
 - a plurality of stems each having a first end attached to said second base and a second end distal from said second basal surface; and
 - at least one second undercut segment attached to each of said plurality of stems at said second end and extending away from said each stem thereby providing an aperture for receiving adjacent pairs of said first undercut segments between adjacent pairs of said stems;
- wherein ones of said second undercut segments are aligned, in a direction generally perpendicular to said second basal surface, with at least part of ones of said fenestrations.
2. *(previously presented)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of two in a generally bilateral disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of apertures, each of said apertures associated with a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said plurality of apertures for receiving complementary pairs of said plurality of second undercut segments.
3. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of three in a generally triangular disposition, said first portion further comprising sets of three apertures and a plurality of aperture

openings each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of three apertures, each of said sets of three apertures and each of said plurality of aperture openings corresponding to a corresponding set of three adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said sets of three apertures for receiving complementary sets of three of said plurality of second undercut segments.

4. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of four in a generally quadrille disposition, said first portion further comprising sets of four apertures and a plurality of aperture openings each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of four apertures, each of said sets of four apertures and each of said plurality of aperture openings corresponding to a corresponding set of four adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said sets of four apertures for receiving complementary sets of four of said plurality of second undercut segments.

5. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of six in a generally hexagonal disposition and said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in sets of three, said first portion further comprising sets of three apertures each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of three first undercut segments and a plurality of aperture openings corresponding to ones of said sets of three apertures, said sets of three apertures for receiving complementary sets of three of said plurality of second undercut segments.

6. *(canceled)*

7. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of second undercut segments are arranged in groups of two arrayed in rows that include a first row, a second row located adjacent said first row and a third row located adjacent said first row, said second portion further comprising a plurality of islands each having an island top surface, each of said pairs associated with a corresponding one of

said plurality of islands, further wherein a portion of said second basal surface corresponding to said first row is generally coplanar with one of said island top surfaces corresponding to said second row and is spaced from said second basal surface corresponding to said third row by ones of said plurality of stems.

8. *(previously presented)* A device as in claim 1, wherein ones of said stems are associated with at least two of said second undercut segments.

9. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein ones of said stems are associated with at least three of said second undercut segments.

10. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said second portion further comprises a plurality of apertures and said second basal surface includes a means for diverting said plurality of first undercut segments into engagement with corresponding ones of said plurality of apertures.

11. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 1, wherein said second portion further comprises a plurality of apertures and said second basal surface includes a diverting structure that directs said plurality of first undercut segments into engagement with corresponding ones of said plurality of apertures.

12. *(currently amended)* A slidingly engageable fastening device operable upon application of a relative shearing force, including:

a first portion comprising:

a first base having a first basal surface; and

at least one first island attached to said first base, said at least one first island having at least one undercut segment spaced from said first basal surface; and

a second portion for slidingly engaging with said first portion upon application of a relative shearing force with respect to said first and second portions, said second portion including:

a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal surface; a plurality of second islands attached to said second base and defining at least one generally tapered aperture for receiving said at least one first island, **wherein said second islands have undercut segments, corresponding with at least part of ones of said plurality of fenestrations, attached to said second base by at least one stem.**

13. *(previously presented)* A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally bilateral disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.
14. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally triangular disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.
15. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally quadrille disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by four corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by four corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

16. (*withdrawn*) A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first island and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally hexagonal disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

17. (*canceled*)

18. (*withdrawn*) A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each arrayed in rows that include a first row, a second row located adjacent said first row and a third row located adjacent said first row, ones of said first and second pluralities of islands each having an island top surface, further wherein a portion of said second basal surface corresponding to said first row is generally coplanar with one of said island top surfaces corresponding to said second row and is spaced from said second basal surface corresponding to said third row.

19. (*withdrawn*) A double-sided interlocking fastening device, comprising:
a base having a first basal surface and an opposing second basal surface;
a plurality of first islands attached to said base and extending away from said first basal surface;
a plurality of second islands attached to said base and extending away from said second basal surface generally opposite said plurality of first islands;
wherein sets of two laterally adjacent said first islands and sets of two laterally adjacent said second islands each define apertures for receiving and slidably engaging with one another.

20. (*withdrawn*) A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally bilateral

disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

21. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally triangular disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

22. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally quadrille disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by four corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by four corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

23. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 19, wherein said plurality of first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally hexagonal disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

24. *(canceled)*

25. *(withdrawn)* A slidingly engageable fastener, comprising:
a first portion that includes:
 - a base having a first basal surface and a second basal surface opposite said first basal surface; and
 - a plurality of first islands attached to said base and extending away from said first basal surface, wherein sets of two adjacent said first islands each define an aperture for receiving and slidingly engaging with a plurality of second islands; and
 - a plurality of attachment devices engaging said first portion and extending away from said second basal surface.
26. *(withdrawn)* A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of nail-like devices.
27. *(withdrawn)* A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of riveting devices.
28. *(withdrawn)* A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of expansion devices.
29. *(withdrawn)* A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of friction fitting devices.
30. *(withdrawn)* A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of folding devices.
31. *(withdrawn)* A fastening device secured to a substrate material, comprising:
a first portion that includes:
 - a first base having a first basal surface and a second basal surface spaced from said first basal surface; and

a plurality of first islands attached to said first base and extending away from said first basal surface, wherein adjacent pairs of said plurality of first islands each define an aperture for receiving, and interlocking with, a plurality of second islands; and

a backing structure for confronting said second basal surface and being attachable to said first portion, said backing structure for securing said first portion to the substrate material when said backing structure is attached to said first portion.

32. *(withdrawn)* A fastening device as in claim 31, wherein ones of said first plurality of islands include receptors having corresponding receptor openings located on said second basal surface and wherein said backing structure comprises a set of pins corresponding to said receptors.

33. *(currently amended)* An interlocking device for slidingly engaging a plurality of first islands, comprising:
a base having a plurality of fenestrations and a basal surface; and
a plurality of second islands attached to said base and defining a plurality of apertures for receiving the plurality of first islands, each of said plurality of second islands including at least three undercut segments spaced from one another, wherein said undercut segments are aligned with at least part of ones of said fenestrations.

34. *(previously presented)* An interlocking device for slidingly engaging a plurality of first islands, comprising:
a base having a plurality of fenestrations and a basal surface; and
a plurality of second islands attached to said base and defining a plurality of apertures for receiving the plurality of first islands, said plurality of second islands including undercut segments spaced from one another;
wherein at least two of said undercut segments extend over each of at least some of said plurality of fenestrations.

Claims 35-43 (Canceled)

44. *(original)* A product, comprising:
a slidingly engagable fastener that includes:
a first portion comprising:
a first base having a first basal surface; and
a plurality of first undercut segments spaced from said first basal surface; and
a second portion for slidingly interlocking with said first portion upon application
of a force to one of said first and second portions in a direction generally
parallel to said first basal surface, said second portion including:
a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal surface;
a plurality of stems each having a first end attached to said second base and a
second end distal from said second basal surface; and
at least one second undercut segment attached to each of said plurality of stems at
said second end and extending away from said each stem.

45. *(original)* A product as in 44, further comprising a component having a third
portion and a fourth portion spaced from said third portion, said third portion
containing said first portion and said fourth portion containing said second
portion.

46. *(original)* A product as in claim 45, wherein said component includes an
elastic section located between said third and fourth portions.

47. *(original)* A product as in claim 44, comprising two or more components
wherein said first and second portions are located on diverse ones of said two or
more components.

48. *(withdrawn)* A method of fastening two portions comprising:
Providing a first portion that includes:
a first base, and

a first plurality of first islands each having at least one undercut surface spaced from said first base;

Providing a second portion that includes:

a fenestrated base with a plurality of fenestrations, and a second plurality of islands, each said island having at least one undercut surface spaced from said base opposite at least part of ones of said fenestrations so as to define a plurality of generally tapered apertures between adjacent pairs of said second islands;

Arranging said first and second portions so that at least one of said first islands is aligned with at least one of said apertures; and

Applying a relative shearing force to said first and second portions so as to cause said islands to be slidingly engaged with said apertures.

49. *(withdrawn)* A method as in claim 48, wherein at least said second portion is produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.

50. *(previously presented)* A device as in claim 1, wherein at least said second portion is produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.

51. *(previously presented)* A device as in claim 12, wherein at least said second portion is produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.

52. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 19 produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.

53. *(withdrawn)* A fastener as in claim 25 produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.

54. *(withdrawn)* A device as in claim 31, wherein at least said first portion is produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.

55. (*previously presented*) A product as in claim 44, wherein at least said second portion is produced by an apparatus that includes a set of interengaging dies.

PROPOSED NEW CLAIMS

56. (New) A device as in claim 50, wherein said apparatus comprises a reciprocating injection molding machine.

57. (New) A device as in claim 50, wherein said apparatus comprises a reciprocating press.

58. (New) A device as in claim 50, wherein said set of interengaging dies are arrayed on a set of counter-rotating rollers.

59. (New) A device as in claim 50, wherein said apparatus is a continuous molding machine, further wherein said set of interengaging dies are arrayed on respective members of a set of rotating molds.

END